

CONNECTING TO COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Information for Parents About the Local Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority (LIDDA)

Access this resource online

If your child has been identified with an **intellectual disability or a developmental delay**, one of the most important first steps is connecting with your LIDDA. The following pages provide the information you need to find and connect with the LIDDA in your county.

What Is a LIDDA?

LIDDAs are the point of entry to certain publicly funded Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) services in Texas. Each LIDDA serves a specific region and is responsible for helping families access long-term supports that allow children and adults with IDD to live and thrive in their communities.

School Contact:

Talk to the contact for your child's school if you have questions about finding your LIDDA or if you need help to access the websites linked in this document.

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Definitions of disability conditions for special education eligibility

LIDDAs offer a wide range of services and supports, including:

- **Access and intake:** Providing information about services and supports, assessing whether your child qualifies for IDD services, and helping families apply for supplemental security income (SSI), social security disability insurance (SSDI), and Medicaid
- **Service coordination:** Helping families access medical, educational, and social services and supports
- **Respite care:** Providing short-term relief when the primary caregiver is unavailable
- **Individualized services based on need and availability:** Providing services such as employment assistance, nursing, therapies, and specialized support. Please note these services may vary by region.
- **Medicaid programs:** Adding individuals to interest lists for Medicaid waiver programs and helping an eligible person enroll in certain Medicaid programs

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Medicaid Waiver Programs

Texas offers several Medicaid waiver programs that provide long-term services and supports for individuals with disabilities in their community. Each program offers different services and has its own **interest list**. A representative at your local LIDDA can help you understand which options might be appropriate based on your child's current and future strengths and support needs.

- Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS) — all ages
- Deaf-Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD) — all ages
- Home and Community-based Services (HCS) — all ages
- Medically Dependent Children's Program (MDCP) — age 20 and younger
- STAR+PLUS Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) — age 21 and older
- Texas Home Living (TxHml) — all ages
- Youth Empowerment Services (YES) — ages 3 to 18

What is an "Interest List"?

Interest lists are sometimes called "waiting lists." People are placed on these lists on a first-come, first-served basis. When a person's name is at the top of the list they will be contacted by a Health and Human Servcies Commission (HHSC) or LIDDA representative. Space in the programs is based on available funding, and people may be on an interest list for years before being contacted.

Important Tips:

- **Put your child's name on interest lists for Medicaid waiver programs as soon as a disability is identified** (see page 3). You can always decline services if not needed in the future.
- You do not need to prove eligibility to be added to the interest lists.
- Keep your contact information updated to ensure you can be reached.
- Check your child's status each year. Checking around your child's birthday is an excellent way to remember to do this.

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Connect with Your LIDDA:

- **Ask your child's admission, review, and dismissal (ARD) committee** where to find information for the LIDDA that serves your county.
- Contact your LIDDA to **schedule an initial meeting**.
- During the initial meeting, the LIDDA staff will discuss **options for services and interest lists** that match your child's needs.

Questions to Ask Your LIDDA Contact:

- What services are provided through this LIDDA?
- How can I add my child's name to the interest lists for the Medicaid waiver programs?
- What documentation do I need to provide?
- Who can I talk to if I have more questions about services and supports for my child?
- Are there other agencies or programs available for my child?

LIDDA for My County:

My LIDDA:
Bluebonnet Trails Community Services

Email:
CareCoordinators@bbtrails.org

Phone:
844-309-6385

Website:
https://bbtrails.org

Visit the HHSC website to search for LIDDAs by county or zip code.

Additional Resources:

- Texas HHSC:
  - LIDDA Resources
  - Interest List Reduction
- YourTexasBenefits.com
- The Arc of Texas
- Navigate Life Texas: Waivers and Wait Lists
- Texas Education Agency (TEA)
  - SPEDTex
  - Roadmap to Texas Transition Resources
  - Resources and help available: Get on the waiting lists now (Straight Talk Video Series): English | Spanish | Vietnamese

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